

Appln. No. 09/696,095  
Amdt. dated October 28, 2008  
Reply to Office Action dated July 1, 2008

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OCT 28 2008

Amendments to the Claims:

Please cancel claims 64, 65, 67 and 68, amend claims 63 and 66, and add new claim 69 as follows. The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-62 (Cancelled).

Claim 63 (Currently Amended). A printing information distribution apparatus which is adapted to be operably connected to portable information terminals and printers through a communication network, ~~each of the portable information terminals comprising first input means for inputting a first user ID of a portable information terminal and first transmitting means for transmitting the first user ID input by the first input means through the communication network, and each of the printers comprising second input means for inputting a second user ID of a printer which is input by an input operation of a user of the printer and a second transmitting means for transmitting the~~

5 ~~each of the portable information terminals comprising first input means for inputting a first user ID of a portable information terminal and first transmitting means for transmitting the first user ID input by the first input means through the communication network, and each of the printers comprising second input means for inputting a second user ID of a printer which is input by an input operation of a user of the printer and a second transmitting means for transmitting the~~

10 ~~each of the portable information terminals comprising first input means for inputting a first user ID of a portable information terminal and first transmitting means for transmitting the first user ID input by the first input means through the communication network, and each of the printers comprising second input means for inputting a second user ID of a printer which is input by an input operation of a user of the printer and a second transmitting means for transmitting the~~

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~~second user ID input by the second input means through the communication network, the apparatus comprising:~~

communication means for, when one of the portable information terminals accesses the apparatus, transmitting a content selection screen image and a print format selection screen image to the one of the portable information terminals which accesses the apparatus;

reception means for receiving a content name and print formation information transmitted from the one of the portable information terminals which accesses the apparatus, the print format information comprising at least sheet selection information indicating a type of a printing sheet, and for storing the received content name and print format information in a reservation information storage means associated with a user identification of the one of the portable information terminals which accesses the apparatus;

generation means for reading the content name and print format information from the reservation information storage means, generating a print content based on the read content name and print format information, and transmitting via an electronic mail a print preparation complete notification to the one of the portable information terminals which accesses the apparatus; and

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distribution means for, when one of the printers accesses  
35 the apparatus, transmitting a user identification input screen  
image to the one of the printers which accesses the apparatus,  
receiving a user identification of a portable information  
terminal transmitted from the one of the printers which accesses  
the apparatus, and transmitting the print content and print  
40 format information corresponding to the received user  
identification to the one of the printers which accesses the  
apparatus

~~means for storing items of print information;~~  
~~means for transmitting to one of the portable information~~  
45 ~~terminals through the communication network a printing~~  
~~reservation screen image which enables a user of the one of the~~  
~~portable information terminals to input a reservation request for~~  
~~printing a selected item or items of the print information stored~~  
~~in the print information memory by one of the printers and the~~  
50 ~~first user ID;~~

~~means for storing the reservation request and the first~~  
~~user ID which are transmitted from the one of the portable~~  
~~information terminals through the communication network; and~~  
~~distribution means, in response to the second user ID~~  
55 ~~transmitted from one of the printers, for selecting and reading a~~

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reservation request from the reservation request and first user  
ID storing means which corresponds to the second user ID  
transmitted from the one of the printers, reading an item or  
items of print information from the print information storing  
60 means which corresponds to the read reservation request, and  
transmitting the read item or items of print information to the  
one of the printers which transmits the second user ID.

Claim 64 (Cancelled).

Claim 65 (Cancelled).

Claim 66 (Currently Amended). A printing information  
distribution apparatus which is adapted to be operably connected  
to portable information terminals and printers through a  
communication network, each of the portable information terminals  
5 comprising a first input device to input a first user ID of a  
portable information terminal and a first transmitter to transmit  
the first user ID input by the first input device through the  
communication network, and each of the printers comprising a  
second input device to input a second user ID of a printer which  
10 is input by an input operation of a user of the printer and a

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~~second transmitter to transmit the second user ID input by the second input device through the communication network, the apparatus comprising:~~

a communication unit configured to, when one of the portable information terminals accesses the apparatus, transmit a content selection screen image and a print format selection screen image to the one of the portable information terminals which accesses the apparatus;

a reception unit configured to receive a content name and print format information transmitted from the one of the portable information terminals which accesses the apparatus, the print format information comprising at least sheet selection information indicating a type of a printing sheet, and configured to store the received content name and print format information in a reservation information storage unit associated with a user identification of the one of the portable information terminals which accesses the apparatus;

a generation unit configured to read the content name and print format information from the reservation information storage unit, generate a print content based on the read content name and print format information, and transmit via an electronic mail a

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print preparation complete notification to the one of the portable information terminals which accesses the apparatus; and a distribution unit configured to, when one of the printers  
35 accesses the apparatus, transmit a user identification input screen image to the one of the printers which accesses the apparatus, receive a user identification of a portable information terminal transmitted from the one of the printers which accesses the apparatus, and transmit the print content and  
40 print format information corresponding to the received user identification to the one of the printers which accesses the apparatus  
~~a print information storage device which stores items of print information;~~  
45 ~~a transmitter which transmits to one of the portable information terminals through the communication network a printing reservation screen image which enables a user of the one of the portable information terminals to input a reservation request for printing a selected item or items of the print~~  
50 ~~information stored in the print information memory by one of the printers and the first user ID;~~  
~~a reservation request and identification storage device which stores the reservation request and the first user ID which~~

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are transmitted from the one of the portable information  
55 terminals through the communication network, and  
a distribution device which, in response to the second user  
ID transmitted from one of the printers, which selects and reads  
a reservation request from the reservation request and first user  
ID storage device which corresponds to the second user ID  
60 transmitted from the one of the printers, reads an item or items  
of print information from the print information storage device  
which corresponds to the read reservation request, and transmits  
the read item or items of print information to the one of the  
printers which transmits the second user ID.

Claim 67 (Cancelled).

Claim 68 (Cancelled).

Claim 69 (New). A computer readable storage medium having a  
computer program stored thereon that is executable by a computer  
5 to control a printing information distribution apparatus which is  
adapted to be operably connected to portable information  
terminals and printers through a communication network to perform  
a process comprising:

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when one of the portable information terminals accesses the

10 printing information distribution apparatus, transmitting a content selection screen image and a print format selection screen image to the one of the portable information terminals which accesses the apparatus;

receiving a content name and print format information

15 transmitted from the one of the portable information terminals which accesses the apparatus, the print format information comprising at least sheet selection information indicating a type of a printing sheet;

storing the received content name and print format

20 information in a reservation information storage means associated with a user identification of the one of the portable information terminals which accesses the apparatus;

reading the content name and print format information from the reservation information storage means;

25 generating a print content based on the read content name and print format information;

transmitting via an electronic mail a print preparation complete notification to the one of the portable information terminals which accesses the apparatus;

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30       when one of the printers accesses the apparatus,  
transmitting a user identification input screen image to the one  
of the printers which accesses the apparatus;  
receiving a user identification of a portable information  
terminal transmitted from the one of the printers which accesses  
35   the apparatus; and  
transmitting the print content and print format information  
corresponding to the received user identification to the one of  
the printers which accesses the apparatus.